GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1911
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2002
VACATIONS IN COURTS
MALYALA RAJAIAH

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whehter summer vacation in courts are observed since the British period;

(b) if so, the total holidys being observed by Spureme Court and High Courts including the holidays being observed in Central Government offices of present;

(c) whether the Government propose to discontinue this practice of holidays in courts to clear the arrears; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF LAW,JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the available information, the Supreme Court of India works for 222 days in a year; all High Courts in the country normally have 210 working days in a year; and the number of working days of the District/Subordinate Courts are regulated by the concerned High Courts.

The Central Government offices having five working days per week, enjoy seventeen Gazetted holidays and two restricted holidays in a year.

(c) and (d) The question of curtailing/discounting the vacations in the Courts has been considered in the past, but it has not been found feasible or advisable to do so because of the taxing nature of work of the Judiciary and the Bar.

The Department of Justice in July, 2001 has invited the views of the High Courts and the State Governments regarding the number of working days in the High Courts and the curtailments of their vacations. Replies have since been received from 10 High Courts and 5 State Governments. The High Court of Uttaranchal has increased the number of its working days in a year from 210 to 224 and the High Court of Karnataka, from 210 to 214; other High Courts have not favoured any increase in the number of their working days in a year. Of the five State Governments which have so far responded, the Mizoram Government has supported the present ceiling of atleast 210 working days per year for the High Court; the Government of Maharashtra, Goa and Rajasthan have favoured increase in the number of annual working days of their respective High Courts; and the Government of Meghalaya has no objection to the increase in the number of the working days in the High Court. The process of consultation is continuing.